

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 OIC-02 /064 W
----- 103660

R 091011Z JAN 75
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9492
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSAREUR
CINCNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
ALL NATO CAPITALS 4875

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0063

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJ: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE: DRC INFORMAL MEETING JANUARY 8, 1975

REF: (A) USNATO 0004; (B) STATE 002644

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING JANUARY 8, 1975 INFORMAL MEETING, DRC DISCUSSED SCOPE AND FORMAT OF 1975 MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. MOST REPS FAVORED US OUTLINE (REF A), MODIFIED TO INLUDE SECTIONS OR SUBSECTIONS ON CHARACTER OF HOSTILITIES, RELATIVE FORCE CAPABILITIES, WARNING OF WAR AND MBFR. IS HOPES TO PRODUCE FIRST DRAFT OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE BY END-JANUARY, WITH US PROVIDING SECTION ON "NATO DEFENSE IN THE LONG TERM." END SUMMARY.

1. DURING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AT JANUARY 8 INFORMAL DRC MEETING, CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS CITED RECENTLY-CIRCULATED IS AND US OUTLINES FOR MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE (REF A) AND ASKED REPS TO DECIDE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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SCOPE/CONTENT FOR FINAL DOCUMENT AND ON HOW DRC SHOULD PROCEED WITH DRAFTING PROCESS. US REF (DR. LEGRE) DESCRIBED US OUTLINE AS ATTEMPT TO COMPLEMENT IS OUTLINE BY ORGANIZING MAJOR GUIDANCE ELEMENTS INTO MORE LOGICAL SEQUENCE, SAID US WAS NOT REPEAT NOT

FIRM ON PRECISE STRUCTURE OF OUTLINE, AND EMPHASIZED US DESIRE THAT ALL ALLIES CONTRIBUTE TO AND THEREFORE IDENTIFY WITH FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT. HE STRESSED US POSITION THAT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE CONTAIN SEPARATE, MAJOR SECTION ON LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT AND SUGGESTED THAT DRC ATTEMPT TO GROUP GUIDANCE ELEMENTS INTO "PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS" AND "DIRECTIVES" CATEGORIES, WITH THE LATTER CATEGORY INCLUDING SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO NMA'S AND NATIONS. US REP SAID FUTURE DRC MEETINGS MIGHT CONSIDER POSSIBLE REVISIONS TO NATO DEFENSE PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW MECHANISMS CONSISTENT WITH FORTHCOMING EXPANDED MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE.

2. DRC DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND FIVE POINTS:

A) OUTLINE STRUCTURE: ALL REPS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT EITHER IS OUTLINE OR US REVISION, WITH MOST REPS, INCLUDING FRG (BGEN SCHUNEMANN), UK (MACDONALD), NORWAY (LEINE), NETHERLANDS (CARSTEN), BELGIUM (COL TAYMANS) FAVORING US APPROACH. FRG AND DENMARK (ROSENTHAL) REPS AGREED ON DISTINCTION BETWEEN "PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS" AND "DIRECTIVE" PORTIONS OF GUIDANCE. ITALY REP (ADM MACHIAVELLI) STATED THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTY SEEING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS" AND SECTION ONN "LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT." CHAIRMAN THEN CONVERED IS OUTLINE IN DETAIL, POINTING OUT LOGIC OF ITS STRUCTURE.

B) SEPARATE TREATMENT FOR LONG RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT (LRDC): ALL REPS EXCEPT ITALY FAVORED SEPARATE AND PROMINENT TREATMENT FOR "NATO DEFENSE IN THE LONG-TERM." FRG REP SUGGESTED PLACING LRDC AFTER SECTION ON "WARSAW PACT", DUE TO LONG-TERM NATURE OF THE THREAT.

C) CHARACTER OF HOSTILITIES, RELATIVE FORCE CAPABILITIES, WARNING OF WAR: NETHERLANDS, UK, ITALY, DENMARK, BELGIUM, FRG AND SHAPE (BGEN MILLER) REPS FAVORED TREATMENT OF THESE ISSUES AS MAJOR SECTIONS WITHIN MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. US REP REMINDED DRC THAT MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION HAD DISCOURAGED LENGTHY CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL ISSUES SUCH AS DURATION OF WARNING TIME. FRG CONFIDENTIAL

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REP THEN SUGGESTED PLACING THEM UNDER "NATO STRATEGY" OR "CHARACTERISTICS OF FORCES" TO AVOID HEADLINING EXCESS NUMBER OF TOPICS.

D) MBFR: US REP, DRAWING ON REF B, SAID US IS FLEXIBLE ON INCLUSION OF MBFR IN MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE. CHAIRMAN AND NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND SHAPE REPS FAVORED INCLUDING MBFR; SHAPE REP MAKING A LENGTHY STATEMENT ON GREAT IMPACT OF MBFR OUTCOMES ON DEFENSE PLANNING. FRG, NORWAY, AND DENMARK REPS FAVORED DELETION OF MBFR ENTIRELY. MISSION COMMENT: IN VIEW OF STRONG IS FEELINGS TOWARD INCLUDING MBFR, MISSION IS CERTAIN THAT IS WILL INCLUDE AN MBFR SECTION IN ITS FIRST FULL DRAFT. END COMMENT.

E) MARITIME ISSUES: UK REP REMINDED DRC OF LONDON INSIST-

ENCE ON DEALING WITH MARITIME ISSUES AS PART OF EACH SECTION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, AS APPROPRIATE, RATHER THAN LUMPING ALL MARITIME ISSUES TOGETHER. SHAPE AND SACLANT (CAPT MAYO) REPS AGREED. OTHER DRC REPS DID NOT ADDRESS THIS ISSUE.

3. CHAIRMAN CLOSED MEETING BY STATING THAT IS WOULD NOW PRODUCE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DRAFT, AND THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO MEET AS MANY VIEWS ON ABOVE SUBJECTS AS POSSIBLE. HE STATED THAT TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUAL SUBJECTS WILL BE SHORT, AND ASKED US REP TO PROVIDE SECTION ON "NATO DEFENSE IN THE LONG TERM." TARGET DATE FOR FIRST DRAFT IS JANUARY 31. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO00063
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750188/abbrzhlw.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USNATO 0004; (B) STATE 002644
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE: DRC INFORMAL MEETING JANUARY 8, 1975
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSAREUR

CINCNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
ALL NATO CAPITALS

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006